

Claims:

5 1. A method for restoring a subscriber context in a network element of a mobile communication network, comprising the steps of:
10 a) transmitting a restart information indicating whether a subscriber context has been updated after the latest restart;
b) continuing the use of a subscriber context updated after said latest restart; and
c) inactivating a subscriber context updated before the latest restart.

15 2. A method according to claim 1, wherein said restart information is a restart counter value and is transmitted together with a context signaling message.

20 3. A method according to claim 2, wherein said restart counter value is compared with a stored restart counter value so as to determine said subscriber context updated before the latest restart.

25 4. A method according to claim 3, wherein said stored restart counter value is updated on the basis of said transmitted restart counter value.

30 5. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein said restart information is transmitted only one time after said latest restart.

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6. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein said network element is GPRS support node, and wherein said restart information is transmitted together with a tunnel management signaling message.

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7. A method according to claim 6, wherein said subscriber context is a PDP context.

8. A system for restoring a subscriber context in a network element (20) of a mobile communication network, comprising:

10 a) transmitting means (10) for transmitting to said network element (20) a restart information indicating whether a subscriber context has been updated after the latest restart;

15 b) wherein said network element (20) comprises receiving means (21) for receiving said restart information, and control means (24) for continuing the use of a subscriber context updated after said latest restart and for inactivation a subscriber context updated before said latest restart, in response to said restart information.

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9. A system according to claim 8, wherein said transmitting means (10) comprises a restart counter (13) for counting a restart number, and an adding means (14) for adding said restart number to a subscriber context message, and wherein said network element (20) comprises a comparing means (23) for comparing said restart number with a restart number stored in a storing means (22) and for supplying the comparing result to said control means (24).

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10. A system according to claim 9, wherein said control means (24) performs control so as to store a new subscriber context included in said subscriber context message and to

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delete an old subscriber context stored in said network element (20).

11. A system according to any one of claims 8 to 10,
5 wherein said network element is a GPRS support node (4,5)
and wherein said subscriber context is a PDP context.

10 12. A network element (10) for a mobile communication network, comprising transmitting means (15) for transmitting a restart information indicating whether a subscriber context has been updated after the latest restart.

15 13. A network element according to claim 12, further comprising a restart counter (13) for counting a restart number, and adding means (14) for adding said restart number to a subscriber context message.

20 14. A network element (20) for a mobile communication network, comprising:

25 a) receiving means (21) for receiving a restart information indicating whether a subscriber context has been updated after the latest restart, and
b) control means (24) for continuing the use of a subscriber context updated after said latest restart and for inactivating a subscriber context updated before said latest restart in response to said restart information.

30 15. A network element according to claim 14, wherein said restart information is a restart number and wherein said network element (20) comprises comparing means (23) for comparing said restart number with a restart number stored

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in a storing means (22) and for supplying the comparing result to said control means (24).

16. A network element according to any one of claims 12 to
5 15, wherein said network element is a GPRS support node
(4,5) and wherein said subscriber context is a PDP context.

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